

DECEMBER 19, 2012

STATEMENT FROM KARI BALES IN RESPONSE TO TODAY'S U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCEMENT

Article 32 Hearings are only the first step in the military justice system. The decision announced today by the Commanding General at Joint Base Lewis McChord is derived from a procedure that, by definition, is not and was not a trial.

All Americans, including my beloved husband, are and must be presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty after receiving a fair trial. I have said from the start that I want my Bob to have a fair trial. After all, this is America and that's what due process is all about.

My husband is an American soldier. He is a citizen of the USA, and he is very much loved by me and by our children. I am so happy that my children and I can visit Bob every weekend and that for a few hours I can see and feel the love that flows between my children and their father. Whatever else is going on in the world, I am blessed by our weekend visits.

It's really very simple. My husband is entitled to a fair trial. That's what I was taught this country is about ever since I was a child, and it is what my own babies will be taught as they grow up. I no longer know if a fair trial for Bob is possible, but it very much is my hope and I will have faith. I humbly ask again for Americans to help me and my family in our effort to raise funds for my husband's defense, at www.helpsgtbales.com.